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INCREASED AREA UNDER IRRIGATION IN HUNGARY

Preliminary estimates place the extent of irrigated areas in Hungary this year at 55,000 cadastral yokes. Of this total, 24,000 are in rice and the rest in meadows, cultivated crops, fodder, and vegetable gardens. The irrigated fields constitute less than one percent of the productive land of the country. Nevertheless, considering the added work, investments, and increased production involved, irrigation is taking on a new importance in Hungary.

Two years ago, rice constituted the greatest part of irrigated crops in the country. By the end of the Five-Year Plan, the distribution of the 200,000 cadastral yokes of irrigated fields will be: fodder, 100,000; rice, 30,000; and cultivated gardens, and meadows, 70,000 cadastral yokes.

More and more irrigated crops are projected under the Five-Year Plan. Although an amount of rice sufficient to meet domestic requirements will be cultivated, rice crops will be surpassed by irrigated fields of fodder.

The large and valuable fodder crops will increase the number of animals in the irrigated areas, and the increased number of animals will mean more animal fertilizer available for poor soil in the vicinity of the irrigated fields.

The Williams method of tending crops is coming into widespread use, especially in the rotation of forage crops. At present crop rotation is not practiced extensavely.

rigation farming can be extended by sparing use of water where there is little water available and by increasing irrigated areas where the water supply is not fully exploited. A sparing use of water in the cultivation of rice, for instance, provides a surplus for irrigating a second crop, which is especially important in view of this year's drought.

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